



## **SUPPORTIVE HOUSING ADVOCATES HOLD 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNUAL CITY COUNCIL LOBBY DAY, CALL FOR RESOURCES TO COMBAT HOUSING, HOMELESSNESS CRISES**

*100+ Providers and Tenants Joined a Virtual Lobby Day with a Record-Breaking 23 Council Members to Discuss Policy Priorities*

**NEW YORK, NY, (March 6, 2025)** – Nonprofit supportive housing providers and tenants joined the Supportive Housing Network of New York (the Network) for its second annual virtual City Council lobby day, holding a record-breaking 23 meetings with members and urging them to implement policies that will help address the mounting homelessness and housing crises.

Advocates are urging the Council to support funding and policies to create and preserve more supportive and affordable housing under the already-promised NYC 15/15 initiative. That 2016 commitment was scheduled to create 15,000 units of supportive housing by 2030. However, with half of the initiative’s units reliant on securing apartments in the private market – where affordability and availability remain scarce – progress has stalled, with just over half of the promised units created or in the pipeline. Advocates also are calling on the Council to prioritize new funding for NYC 15/15 to cover ever-rising costs.

“The City Council historically has been a champion of supportive housing, recognizing its unique ability to assist those struggling with the underlying causes of chronic homelessness – from mental health and substance use challenges to domestic violence, poverty and more,” said **Pascale Leone, Executive Director of the Supportive Housing Network of New York**. “We greatly appreciate and are encouraged by the overwhelming participation we saw in today’s virtual lobby day and look forward to continuing to work with the Council on our policy priorities and initiatives.”

“We haven’t taken on more scattered site units because of the funding levels not matching what it takes to run the program,” said **Emma Williams, Chief Development Officer, Brooklyn Community Housing and Services (BCHS)**. “Reallocation is crucial to support our residents.”

Additionally, the Network is asking lawmakers to back [Intro 1100](#), which would amend supportive housing eligibility requirements to count justice involvement in the last 12 months as homeless time, and [Intro 514](#), which would require the City to pay for interest on loans nonprofit providers are forced to take out due to chronically late payments under City contracts.

“Supportive housing is one of the most effective tools we have to break the cycle of homelessness and incarceration, but too many New Yorkers are excluded from accessing it due to eligibility requirements that fail to account for the realities of the criminal legal system,” said **Council Member Carlina Rivera (D-02)**. “Introduction 1100-2024 would remove barriers to housing by expanding eligibility to people with recent justice system involvement, ensuring that more New Yorkers can access the stability and services they need to thrive. I am grateful to our partners and advocates who are working to advance this critical legislation and push for bold solutions to address the intersecting crises of homelessness and incarceration.”

“When the City doesn’t pay providers, providers have to take out loans,” said **Richard Meador, Assistant Director of Social Services, Project FIND**. “Interest has to be paid on those loans.”

Additionally, they are calling for \$4.8M more in annual funding for the chronically underfunded Justice Involved Supportive Housing (JISH) program for homeless individuals with behavioral health needs and history of incarceration.

Amidst the City’s ongoing mental health crisis, the Network is also supporting the push for \$4.5 million for baseline funding for competitive compensation for Peer Specialists to staff the city’s mental health crisis response teams. This would include the addition of peer responders on B-HEARD, the mental health crisis response pilot program, to ensure compassionate, community-driven support for individuals in crisis.

The Network is building on the momentum of a successful and well-attended lobby day last month in Albany, where providers, tenants, and legislative allies called for more investment to build and preserve supportive housing units and called for passage of the [Supportive Housing Modernization Act](#).

“I live to fight. Today I’m fighting for something positive. Supportive housing saved my life. People need to realize that supportive housing does so much for me and others,” said **Helen Taylor, Tenant Advocate with Fortune Society**. “It brings down crime rates and people don’t realize that. When I moved in, it changed everything.”

“I believe in supportive housing,” said **Victor Walker, Tenant Advocate with Jericho Project**. “I believe that it changes lives because it changed my life.”

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#### [About The Network:](#)

*The Supportive Housing Network of New York is a 32-year-old nonprofit membership organization representing more than 200 nonprofits statewide that build and run supportive housing. The Network began life as a handful of pioneers seeking to create a respectful new model of housing*

*to meet the needs of chronically homeless New Yorkers and evolved alongside the movement. As the only supportive housing membership organization in the state and the largest in the country, the Network serves as a voice for the provider community, which has created the largest, best managed, and most innovative supportive housing stock in the nation.*